IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

7. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the member is positioned for rotation about an axis on the frame and the scanning means comprise means for rotating the member about the axis.

8. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising scanning control means for controlling the scanning means for scanning the specimen along a predetermined curve.

10. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising storage means for storage of signals provided by the detector and corresponding position signals provided by the scanning control means.

12. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising signal processing means operatively connected to the detector to detect a presence of an object based on the detector signals.

15. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the specimen has an area larger than $500mm^2$.

16. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the specimen has an area larger than 8000mm^2.

17. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the scanning means further comprise deflecting means for scanning the first light beam across the specimen along a radius of the circular movement of the member.

18. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the light source is positioned for rotation about an axis on the frame and the scanning means comprise means for rotating the light source about the axis.

19. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the scanning means further comprise deflecting means for scanning the first light beam across the specimen along a radius of the circular movement of the light source.

20. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the scanning means further comprise movable deflecting means for variable deflection of the first light beam.

23. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a mask is inserted in the optical path between the specimen and the detector, and

the mask comprised at least one transparent aperture.

25. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein at least one dimension of the aperture, as projected on the specimen, is between 0.75 and 2 times the dimensions of objects to be detected.

26. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of the two or more fluorescent markers is Fluorescein.

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27. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the light source is a coherent light source.

28. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the light beam is adapted to provide a light spot having a diameter between 20-150μm on the specimen.

35. (Amended) A method according to claim 29, further comprising the step of rotating the member holding the specimen about an axis.

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36. (Amended) A method according to claim 29, further comprising the step of storing signals relating to the detected properly and corresponding data relating to the current position of the member.